

Claims

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A fluid applicator comprising:  
an elongated handle having a proximal end and a distal end, said handle divided by a zone of fracture into a gripping portion at said distal end and a detachable applicator portion at said proximate end, said handle adapted to break along said zone of fracture upon application of adequate force, thereby separating said gripping portions and applicator portions,  
an applicator pad attached to said applicator portion, said applicator pad comprising flexible material capable of retaining fluid, and  
means for gripping said applicator portion when separated from said gripping portion.
2. The applicator of claim 1, wherein said pad comprises porous material.
3. The applicator of claim 1 wherein said pad comprises filamentary material.
4. The applicator of claim 1 wherein said pad comprises animal wool.

5. The applicator of claim 1 wherein said pad comprises synthetic wool.
6. The applicator of claim 1 wherein said pad substantially covers the surface of said applicator portion.
7. The applicator of claim 1 wherein said handle comprises wood.
8. The applicator of claim 1 wherein said handle comprises plastic.

9. A device for applying fluid such as paint, stain, varnish or the like,

comprising:

an elongated handle having an applicator portion on one end of said handle and a primary gripping portion on the opposite end of said handle, said applicator portion including a covering of fluid-retaining material for transferring such fluid from said applicator portion to a surface, said handle including a substantially transverse zone of fracture defining a boundary between said primary gripping portion and said applicator portion, whereby said handle may be broken along said zone of fracture thereby separating said applicator portion from said primary gripping portion, and a secondary gripping element detachable from said primary gripping element and attachable to said applicator portion.

10. A disposable device for applying fluid such as paint, stain, varnish or the like comprising:

an elongated paddle element having an applicator portion at one end, said applicator portion substantially covered with fluid retaining material,  
a primary gripping portion comprising a portion of said paddle element projecting from said applicator portion,  
one or more detents in the surface of said paddle element, said detents located between said applicator portion and said primary gripping portion so that upon application of sufficient force said paddle element may be broken proximate to said detents thereby separating said applicator portion from said primary gripping portion, and  
a secondary gripping element attachable to said applicator portion.

11. The device of claim 10, wherein said secondary gripping element is stored upon said primary gripping portion for attachment proximate to said fluid-retaining material after detachment of said applicator portion from said primary gripping portion.

12. A method for treating a surface with a fluid such as paint, stain, varnish or the like, comprising:

providing an elongated handle having an applicator pad attached to one end of the handle,  
the opposing end of the handle serving as a primary gripping element,  
loading the applicator pad with selected fluid,  
transferring the fluid from the applicator pad to a vertical surface by wiping the applicator pad across the surface,  
breaking the handle along a substantially transverse zone of fracture located between the primary gripping element and the applicator pad to detach the applicator pad from the primary gripping element,  
attaching a secondary gripping element to the applicator pad, and  
transferring fluid from the applicator pad to a horizontal surface by wiping the applicator pad across the surface.